

Application No.: 10/029,354

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Abstract of the Disclosure

**CATHETER WITH REMOVABLE BALLOON PROTECTOR AND  
STENT DELIVERY SYSTEM WITH REMOVABLE STENT PROTECTOR**

A balloon catheter is provided having an expandable distal portion and balloon protector comprising a first removable sleeve, and an optional second removable (outer) sleeve positioned over the inner sleeve, the second (outer) sleeve having a constrictive relationship with the first (inner) sleeve, said first and second sleeves being removed prior to use of the catheter. The first sleeve may have a variable inner diameter.